

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 21. Amend claims 1, 2, 4, 14, 28 and 29 as provided below.

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a coding strand encoding a polypeptide comprising a the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement of said nucleic acid molecule.
2. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement of said nucleic acid molecule, said polypeptide having epithelial cell proliferation activity.
3. (Previously Canceled).
4. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the coding strand encodes the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said molecule hybridizing under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid sequence complementary to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence of nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement of said nucleic acid molecule, said stringent condition comprising those in which a salt concentration is from about 0.01 M to about 1.0 M sodium ion at a pH from about 7.0 to about 8.3, and in which a temperature is at least about 30°C for probes comprising nucleic acids of 10 to 50 nt or at least about 60°C for probes comprising nucleic acids of more than 50 nt; and further comprising at least one wash in 0.2X SSC, 0.01% BSA.
5. (Previously Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, said molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said amino acid sequence further comprising one or more conservative amino acid substitutions, wherein said substitutions do not alter the functional ability of the encoded FGF-CX protein, and wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide at least 85% identical to the polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (Previously Canceled).
7. (Original) A nucleic acid vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
8. (Original) The nucleic acid vector of claim 7, wherein said vector is an expression vector.
9. (Original) The vector of claim 7, further comprising a regulatory element operably linked to said nucleic acid molecule.
10. (Original) A host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
- 11 - 13. (Previously Canceled).
14. (Currently amended) A method of producing an isolated FGF-CX polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, said method comprising the step of culturing the host cell of claim 10 under conditions in which the coding strand of the nucleic acid molecule encoding said polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 is expressed.
- 15 - 18. (Previously Canceled).
19. (Previously Amended) A composition comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
20. (Previously Amended) A kit comprising in one or more containers, the composition of claim 19.
21. (Canceled)
- 22- 27. (Previously Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the nucleic acid hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions, said stringent condition comprising those in which a salt concentration is from about 0.01 M to about 1.0 M sodium ion at a pH from about 7.0 to about 8.3, and in which a temperature is at least about 30°C for probes comprising nucleic acids of 10 to 50 nt or at least about 60°C for probes comprising nucleic acids of more than 50 nt; and further comprising at least one wash in 0.2X SSC, 0.01% BSA; wherein sequences at least about 85% homologous to each other remain hybridized to each other.

29. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 28 ~~encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2,~~ wherein its coding strand encodes the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said polypeptide having epithelial cell proliferation activity.